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BUREAU OF WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE  
OFFICE OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

FEB 01 2010

Paul Stacey  
Bureau of Water Management  
Department of Environmental Protection  
79 Elm St.  
Hartford, Ct. 06106

Re: Proposed Stream Flow Regulations

Jan 25, 2010

Dear Mr. Stacey:

Congratulations on finally issuing much needed proposed stream flow regulations. The proposed regulations appear to be based upon sound science, and will do much to continue improving the health of our rivers (an effort that we both have been involved in for many years).

I am concerned, however, that you are proposing to effectively abandon some of our more polluted streams (Quinnipiac etc) by classifying them Level 4. A huge amount of work has gone into cleaning up those streams by the State, watershed, environmental, and recreation groups over many years, and the public has recently begun to be able to access some of those waters safely for the first time in over a century. This new classification level would remove industrial incentives to continue these efforts, and mean that they would not have flow regulations and would never be able to regain ecological health. That is not fair to the fish and wildlife in the streams, or the residents who live in those areas. I object strenuously to establishing this new Level 4 Classification.

The Shepaug River court decision required the State to establish flow regulations; it certainly did not contemplate regulations that would exempt certain streams from the requirements. I recognize that municipalities and water companies, who have traditionally diverted water, are worried that these regulations may cause hardship for them, but I firmly believe, as did the Shepaug court, that with proper management and planning, shortages can be anticipated and preparations put in place that will address such conditions. All state waters belong to the public, the ecology of all streams, and their inhabitants, should not be damaged because we humans cannot take the time and effort to protect them.

Thank you for your attention,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Robinson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate Robinson